

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8335
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL IBADAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 14191

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, RH, SF
SUBJ: VOA COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES

REF : IBADAN 879 (BEING REPEATED)

EMBASSY SHARES CONCERN REFLECTED IN REFTEL OVER VOA COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS WHICH USES SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN TERMINOLOGY AND REPEATS THEIR VIEWS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A ONE-SIDED MANNER. DISCUSSION WITH VOA CORRESPONDENT ROBERTS INDICATES THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM FREQUENTLY LIES IN INABILITY OF VOA CORRESPONDENTS TO GO INTO ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIA, INTERVIEW LIBERATION LEADERS, AND REPORT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY. TO THE EXTENT THIS IS SO, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH RE-EXAMINE POLICY OF WITHHOLDING PERMISSION FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS TO ENTER SUCH AREAS. WHEN THE ONLY NEWS SOURCES ARE SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN GOVERNMENTS, VOA MAY APPEAR TO BE AIDING AND ABETTING THOSE SOURCES IN PUTTING OUT THEIR VERSIONS OF THE STORY. WE ARE AFRAID THIS MIGHT NOT BE REGARDED IN AFRICAN CIRCLES AS THE SORT OF OBJECTIVITY THAT VOA SEEKS TO REPRESENT.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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